

GOD'S PAVILION
Part XV
2nd Chronicles 2:1

Introduction: In the matter of thanksgiving, we deduced from the Word of God that thanksgiving can be silent or softly spoken. Thanksgiving should always preface every prayer. Praise should inculcate laudation and enthusiastic acknowledgement of the awesomeness of God. Today we are going to examine what worship is and how it should be utilized by believers. There are three imperative components that should accompany a believer's walk with the Lord. They are: *thanksgiving*, *praise*, and *worship*. All three are integral pieces to a whole. These three elements inculcate our accessibility to God's approval and our invitation to an intimate encounter with Him. This moves us from a *form of godliness* to true *Christianity*. One takes you through the motions of religion, and the other effects a holy connection with the Most High. 2nd Timothy 3:5.

A. The church, God's pavilion

1. Worship. The English word for worship is from the old English word, "*weordhscipe*." This word was later shortened to "worthship." It still is used in English law when the judge is referred to as "your worship." Worship in the verb form means to pay homage or respect. There are many synonyms that help us understand the meaning of the word: words like adore, esteem, laud, magnify, revere, venerate, exalt, and obeisance. The Hebrew word for worship in the Old Testament is *shachah*. It is translated, to bow down, to do reverence, to prostrate, and beseech humbly. It is impossible to understand worship without relating to an attitude of the body. Leviticus 9:24; 2nd Chronicles 6:12-13.
 - a) The most commonly used word for worship in the New Testament is the Greek word *proskuneo*. This word is used over fifty times. It is a combination of two separate Greek words: *pros*, which means toward, and *kuneo*, which means to kiss. Proskuneo literally means to kiss towards. The meaning of the word is perfectly expressed by the woman who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears and then kissed His feet. Luke 7:44-45.
2. Man is a creature that has a propensity to worship someone or something. It is part of his nature. His choice is not whether he will worship, but only what or whom. God will not share our worship with anyone else. When the devil tempted Jesus, he wanted Jesus to worship him. Matthew 4:9-10. This illustrates a great principle of worship: whatever we acquiesce to and worship, we ultimately will serve.
 - a) Our nature demands that we worship something. Our choice is whether it will be God or something else. Throughout history, man has worshiped false gods such as Aseroth, Molock, Diana, the groves, reincarnation, the new age, and the occult. False worship is of the devil, and real worship is of God.
 - b) An example of worship is found in John 4:1-26. The deep craving she had in her spirit could not be quenched by immorality. Jesus taught the woman that true worship is "in spirit and in truth." It involves exposing our entire life to the divine searchlight of the Holy Spirit. In spirit refers to the basic part of the total human personality. 1st Thessalonians 5:23. The body is *world conscious*; the soul is *self conscious*; and the spirit is *God conscious*. The only way to worship then is through the spirit. It is not the soul or body that worships, but the spirit.
 - c) Those who truly worship are those who flow towards God in their spirit and do so according to the truth of God's Word. Ephesians 5:18. Paul is teaching here that man has an insatiable need. That craving will lead him either to God or to some substitute.
 - d) The woman at the well tried everything to avoid the point of discussion. She tried to sidetrack the conversation by discussing the race issue between Jews and the Samaritans. Jesus brought her back to the subject of worship. When she tried to discuss the origin of the well, Jesus brought her back to worship. Some of us would rather discuss race, church buildings, or other issues, anything to sidestep the issue of worship. Jesus spoke to the woman in John 4:21-24.

Conclusion: The hour to worship is now! We don't need to wait until Sunday. Worship is a response to a relationship with God, but that relationship is very intimate and it is difficult for another person to describe exactly what it is. It does involve an intense fellowship with God.